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A gravel cycling event hosted by Richmond residents: Ted and Laura King and co-director Kristin Motley of Waterbury

July 31, 2021: 10-6 Reg pickup at Cochran's, shakeout ride, expo

Aug 1: main event. 7:30am start-6pm

Choice of two courses: 45 or 85 mile

Max attendance: 800 riders

Riders will start from the Cochran Ski area venue and ride towards West White Hill where the ride will immediately be broken up due to starting on a steep grade. Riders are experienced cyclists and will be instructed to follow rules of the road (stopping at stop signs, staying single file).

Long route option: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/29430207>

Short route option: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/29428072>

### **Cochran Road Closure**

Directors are actively in discussions with Kyle Kapitanski to hire at least two officers to assist with the Cochran road closure (7am-8:30am on Sunday August, 1st). We are also working with him to address safety concerns brought up by former Chief Muldoon specifically regarding congestion on Dugway, the turn from Mayo road onto Hinesburg road, and the turn from Dugway road onto Cochran road. It is our intention to implement all best safety practices. Riders will be notified of traffic laws several times prior to the event, at the start, and will be alerted in real time on their GPS bike computers during the event plus any necessary signage on the road. A copy of the email that was sent to Kyle Kapitanski is copied below.

### **Covid Statement**

Rooted Vermont has participated in meetings with Vermont's Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and General Counsel to discuss all Covid related safety measures required to host this event. The group was overwhelmingly positive about the August 1, 2021 date and likelihood that the state will have minimal restrictions in place at that time. Since our conversation, which happened in February, 2021, Vermont's reopening plan has evolved and currently reads that there will not be restrictions on travel and outdoor gatherings after July 1, 2021. That said, we will ask participants to wear masks and appropriately distance themselves when in close proximity to others. We do not anticipate having to implement additional measures such as contact tracing or

wave starts in August, but we will be prepared to implement them if regulations change. In the weeks leading up to the event, we will again be in touch with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to discuss any concerns. We closely researched protocols put in place by ski areas during the 20/21 winter season and would use those recommendations as a guide should the state reverse its reopening plan for July 1, 2021. Rooted Vermont fully plans to follow state guidelines and social norms specific to Vermont regarding Covid and communicate those guidelines and expectations to our participants.

Letter to police chief: Kyle Kapitanski

My name is Laura King, I live in town and also direct a bike event called [Rooted Vermont](#) based out of Cochran's Ski area. We held our inaugural event in 2019, 2020 was canceled for Covid, and now we're planning for an August 1, 2021 event. Racers leave from Cochran ski area, climb Wes White, and head toward Huntington. At the end of the race, riders travel on Mayo rd, to Hinesburg road, to Dugway, back to Cochran rd.

The main item we want to discuss with you is hiring police staffing for Cochran road on the morning of Sunday August 1st. We anticipate the first waves of the race starting at 7:30am which means closing the road at 7am and reopening it just after 8:30am. This is a large field and in the past we discussed with Chief Muldoon the impossible task of keeping a field of this size from crossing the yellow line when everyone is lining up to begin in front of Cochran Ski area. The reason we have everyone turn up Wes White is that we naturally break the field up for safety--so the field is only rolling together on Cochran road for the first two miles of the event.

I have copied the email we received from Larry Muldoon after our 2019 event, below. In addition to the Cochran rd closure, we are open to discussing the possibility of either hiring police for the intersection of Mayo rd and Hinesburg road or coming up with an alternative safety measure there. We plan to increase our signage on Dugway for both cyclists and cars to increase caution in that area.

Do you anticipate having staffing to help us with the Cochran road closure on August 1st? We're happy to have a phone call to discuss the details of all this.

### **Press Release from 2019**

**Rooted Vermont:** *Return to Gravel* is a brand new gravel event that will take place on August 4, 2019 in Richmond, VT. Former World Tour professional racer and current King of Gravel, Ted King, is creating this event with his wife, Laura, with the goal to highlight the very best of cycling and the Green Mountain State, both on the bike and off.

"I retired from traditional road racing in 2015. Our goal is to pay it forward with Rooted Vermont. It was a natural progression and I segued the World Tour to the growing gravel scene as someone who just loves riding a bike. I've been floored with the warm, welcoming nature of the gravel community and we want to showcase exactly that."

While gravel is the fastest growing category on two wheels, in Vermont — a state with more dirt roads than paved — it's the way things have always been. There's a simple, return to one's roots feel.

The course and the after party have been designed to showcase two things. One, the way life has always been in Vermont: it's a place where the value of hard work is upheld and connection to the land is steadfast. Yes, bucolic pastures, verdant mountains are iconic symbols of the state, but it's the out-there creativity, staunch independence, and a desire to be outdoors that run through a Vermonter's DNA.

And two, the very best of gravel cycling. "Since returning back east last summer, Ted and I already feel tremendously rooted to our new home. 'Community' is a popular word in cycling, but it's inherent to the way of life in Vermont and the best of the sport in general" explains Laura. With a decade of experience in the cycling industry, Laura is especially spearheading this endeavor which is a powerful statement to women in cycling. Rooted Vermont is a welcoming beacon to everyone ready to hop on a bike.

In the spirit of "keep Vermont weird", *Rooted Vermont* will follow a mullet protocol: business in the front, party in the back. Two course lengths are offered of roughly 45 or 85 miles, both are approximately 70% dirt with 3500' or 8000' of climbing. The event will begin in Richmond, just outside Burlington, traveling south through the heart of the rugged Green Mountains towards Ripton. Featuring both silky smooth gravel and other sections titled Class 4 or *Vermont pavé*, there is challenging terrain for any ability of cyclist.

After a long day pedaling Vermont's finest gravel, what awaits is a pure Vermont summer party. Finishing at the base of Cochran's Ski Area, also home to [UnTapped Maple](#), riders will enjoy exquisite farm fresh food and two Vermont staples: IPA and maple creemees.

A portion of the proceeds from this ride will go towards Cochran's Ski Area trail building efforts for beginner mountain bike trails. Cochran's already boasts a vast network of single track but their goals go beyond hosting recreation. With a mission to "provide area youth and families with affordable skiing and snowboarding, lessons and race training, in the Cochran tradition" this extends to cycling as well and with new handicap accessible trails, riders of any kind will be able to be introduced to the joy of riding a bike.